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SHIPKA PASS STILL HELD.

SERVIA GOING TO WAR.

THE TURKS HELD IN CHECK BEFORE ESKI DJUMA. The Russians still held the Shipka Pass yesterday. Fighting was going on, and the Russian forces had suffered heavy loss. It is expected that the Russians will assume the offensive as soon as this conflict in the Balkan is over. In the recent operations before Eski Djuma the Turks strove to get between the Russian troops on the River Lom, and those on the road from Timova to Osman Bazar. The Russians, however, defeated this attempt. It appears from later advices that the Russians were defeated at Kurukdere in Armenia. Mukhtar Pasha's report was, however, substantially correct that he had captured Kiziltepe, a position included in the same attack. The important announcement is made that Serbia is about to declare war against Turkey.

SERVIA ABOUT TO DECLARE WAR.

PRINCE MILAN AND HIS MINISTERS RESOLVED ON WAR—ARMY COMMANDERS APPOINTED. LONDON, Monday, Aug. 27, 1877.

A Belgrade dispatch to *The Times* says there are very strong indications that Serbia will again try the fortunes of war. District officials have received orders not to give passports to any militiamen who wish to go to the interior or abroad. There are uninterrupted daily communications with the Russian headquarters.

Reuter's Belgrade dispatch, dated Monday, says that a ministerial council yesterday, at which Prince Milan presided, the cooperation of the Serbian Army with the Russians in Bulgaria was determined upon, and the commanders of the various corps were nominated.

A deputation from Servians now taking part in the insurrection in Bosnia is negotiating with the Serbian Minister of War for the formation of a Serbian free corps, under command of Serbian officers, to be dispatched to the insurgent camp in Bosnia, Serbia at the same time taking supreme direction of the Bosnian bands. The Serbian Government, however, seem unwilling to entertain this project.

Before war is declared against Turkey an extraordinary session of the Skupstina will be convened. The Ministry has taken the initiative in proposing war in order to unite all parties, and should the Skupstina approve its course, a coalition Ministry will be formed.

Prince Zesseff has arrived in Belgrade from the Russian headquarters, and is conferring with Prince Milan, Prime Minister Kisties, and the Minister of War.

STRENGTH OF THE SERBIAN ARMY. According to the census of December 31, 1874, the population of Serbia amounted to 1,352,222 souls, of whom 694,756 were males; and at the end of 1875, according to official returns, it had increased to a total of 1,377,063. Comparing these figures with 1,400,000, the latest official nominal strength, on a war footing, of the entire army and reserve, and making every allowance for the losses of last year's campaign, with the subsequent demoralization arising from it, it may still be confidently expected that 40,000 men can be put in line, if the money is forthcoming. By all accounts and appearances, the service of war has been available for the secondary operations of war, such as guarding communications, manning fortresses, and the like, all of which, while indispensable, materially reduce the strength of an invading army for operations in the field and for the day of battle.

The Serbian Army is composed, according to the organic law of 1862, and its subsequent modifications in 1867, of two distinct parts, namely, the Standing Army and the National Army or Militia. In time of peace the first is distributed over the whole territory of the Principality, and is chiefly intended to act as instructors for the militia. This last is divided into two bands or categories, of which the first is composed of all arms of the service, and constitutes the active Army for field operations. The second band is only composed of infantry, and is destined principally for the defence of the soil, although it may also be utilized to fill the gaps in the ranks of the first band. Each soldier is bound to serve his country from his twentieth to his fiftieth year. The law fixes the duration of service in the Standing Army at three years, but ordinarily it does not exceed two. Two more are passed in the reserve, and the remaining twenty-six in the militia.

In 1875, by order of the Skupstina, the then war Minister, Col. Potich, furnished the following details of the militia. The first band was supposed to number 98,000 men, and the second band 21,600. Of these, immediately effective combatants, there were 67,222 infantry of the first band, and 48,400 infantry of the second band, 4,950 cavalry and 2,221 engineers. There were also 30 batteries with 7,200 artillerymen and 120 guns, and also the standing army, which would give an effective of about 135,000. The militia, furnished by two districts of the country—those of the capital, Belgrade, and of Kraguevatz—are artillerymen; the rest are infantry. There appears to be also since last year a newly-organized volunteer service.

The finances of Serbia have been for some years in a well-regulated state, and, until last year when the war with Turkey necessitated the issue of a small internal loan, there was no public debt.

THE BATTLE BEFORE ESKI DJUMA.

THE RUSSIAN'S COMMUNICATIONS THREATENED—THE TURKS HELD IN CHECK. LONDON, Monday, Aug. 27, 1877.

Mehemet Ali's recent operations are explained in a telegram from the Vienna correspondent of *The Times*. The object, he says, of the movement on Agnaslar (or Jaslar) seems to have been to get between the positions occupied by the Russians on the River Lom and those occupied by them on the line from Timova to Osman Bazar. Although by the taking of Agnaslar the right of the Russian position on the Lom has been turned by the Turks, communication between the Russian division on the Lom, and that on the road from Timova to Osman Bazar, has not been interrupted, for it runs further behind over the heights by Karagac and Kadi-Koi. Two divisions of the Thirteenth Corps are now ready to co-operate against any further advance of the Turks from Agnaslar. Pop-Koi, near which these two divisions are concentrated, is a strong flanking position. The Turks, if they advance from Agnaslar, cannot leave it aside, but must either take it or manoeuvre the Russians out of it. Even a feeble demonstration from Belova, where the right wing of Sultan Pasha's army was, or from Osman Bazar, which might be made at any moment, would prevent the Russians from drawing up large reinforcements to oppose an advance from Agnaslar. From the partial nature of the engagements fought hitherto on the Lom line, the Russians cannot be certain whether it is the main force of Mehemet Ali they have to deal with there, or whether an advance in that direction is not made with a view to prepare for an advance from Osman Bazar, which, being along the main road, would seem a far more likely movement for a large army than an advance along the indifferent roads and tracks leading from Agnaslar. From the manner in which the Russians are pushing forward reinforcements to the Shipka Pass, it seems they are still confident of being able to resist any advance from the River Lom or Osman Bazar.

THE STRUGGLE FOR THE SHIPKA PASS.

THE PASS STILL HELD BY THE RUSSIAN—GEN. RADZIKY LEFT IN PERIL. ST. PETERSBURG, Aug. 26, 1877.

The news from Constantinople announcing the capture of several forts in the Shipka Pass is, according to present information, unfounded. The following official intelligence is published: "According to the latest news from headquarters, our troops have not yet yielded an inch of their positions in the Shipka Pass."

CONSTANTINOPLE, Monday, Aug. 27, 1877. Up to 11.10 o'clock this morning, no official dispatch has been received confirming the announcement telegraphed yesterday by the Governor of Adrianople, that Sultan Pasha had captured Shipka Pass.

RUSSIAN GAINS IN FRIDAY'S CONFLICT. LONDON, Monday, Aug. 27, 1877. It appears from further details of the battle on Friday in the Shipka Pass, that the central peak of the Turkish position was carried with the bayonet by the Russians, part of the troops who accomplished this being led by Gen. Radetzky in person. The correspondent of *The Daily News* says the Turks endeavored to retake it, but were repulsed. "As well as thus clearing his flank, Gen. Radetzky also pushed back the Turks from his front. The Turks will doubtless renew the attack to-morrow (Sunday), with fresh troops, probably both in front and on the flanks. They are reported as pressing on through a narrow and difficult pass on the east side of Shipka, leading down into Timova, but I know that the Grand Duke Nicholas has ordered a brigade to that point, with more troops to follow. Also, that reinforcements are streaming on to the Shipka position. Gen. Radetzky has broken the dangerous pressure on his flanks. All danger is not yet over, but the atmosphere looks much clearer." The correspondent estimates the Russian loss on Friday at 1,500 killed and wounded.

SHIPKA STILL HELD YESTERDAY. LONDON, Tuesday, Aug. 28, 1877. The *Daily News's* correspondent at Sistova telegraphs on Monday as follows: "Fighting is still going on in front of the Shipka Pass, but Gen. Radetzky continues to maintain his ground, although his losses are serious. I hold to my conviction that Shipka is safe, and that thus is defeated the great strategic scheme of the Turkish leaders to hem the Russians within the large *dele-doupe* in Bulgaria with the ultimate intent of drawing them over the Danube. The next few days will be full of interest. These past I shall expect the Russians to take the initiative in a vigorous offensive policy on both flanks and so relieve themselves from the existing pressure, and having done so, pursue their design of sweeping the country north of the Balkans clear of the Turkish Armies. The spirit and condition of the Russian soldiers are high and satisfactory. They may be relied upon to fight a good fight."

THE LATEST RUSSIAN BULLETIN. LONDON, Monday, Aug. 27, 1877. A Russian official bulletin, dated Gorny-Studen Sunday evening says: "Yesterday our troops maintained their positions in the Shipka Pass. During the day's fighting which lasted from nine o'clock in the morning until ten in the evening we lost thirty officers and 400 men killed and wounded. During the night the Turks renewed the engagement with fresh troops, and fighting was still going on desperately at noon, Sunday, when the dispatch containing this information left the Pass. The Russians then still maintained their positions."

CONSTANTINOPLE, Aug. 27—Evening. No official dispatch has been received from Sultan Pasha.

THE CAMPAIGN IN ARMENIA. MORE FIGHTING EXPECTED—THE RUSSIAN REINFORCEMENTS DEFEATED AT KURUKDERE. LONDON, Monday, Aug. 27, 1877.

A Reuter telegram from Erzerum, dated August 26, reaffirming the report of the defeat of the Russians at Kiziltepe and Souhian, says: "Renewed fighting is imminent. Russian reinforcements continue to arrive at Alexandropol. Twelve thousand men and forty-eight guns have reached Erzerum. The reinforcement of Gen. Tergukassoff." A dispatch to *The Daily News*, from Kuruk-Dere, dated August 25, says: "The Turks took Kiziltepe, but in attempting to take Kuruk-Dere they were entirely defeated. The Russian Generals Komaroff and Tghlavachev were wounded."

THE BRITISH CHANCELLOR ON THE WAR. LONDON, Tuesday, Aug. 28, 1877.

Sir Stafford Northcote, in a speech at Plymouth last night, declared that the duty of England at the present moment was to pursue a policy of the strictest neutrality. An occasion might arise on which a definite policy would be necessary, but under present circumstances the duty of the Government was to keep in view and maintain in every possible way the position of influence of England, so that it could be of assistance in bringing this most miserable, disastrous, cruel and barbarous war to a close.

As the struggle became more and more mortal the necessity increased for England to plan her conduct as to avoid the possibility of her motives or sincerity being misunderstood or suspected on either side. They had said the filibusters of England must be protected if attacked, and he maintained this position, but not in the narrow and selfish sense which had been ascribed to the phrase. What they wished was, in the interest of humanity and the world at large, to bring about, if possible, a settlement of the unhappy quarrel which at present desolated Europe.

He hoped the Government would be allowed, without having to contend with excited outbursts, to exercise according to the best of their judgment and with a firm resolution to do their duty, the influence which still remained to Great Britain in the councils of Europe. He believed that influence was still growing, and that it would not be less powerful for good at the close of the nineteenth century than it was at the commencement.

ALLEGED RUSSIAN ATROCITIES. A STRONG PROTEST FROM THE OTTOMAN GOVERNMENT—SAVAGE ACTS CHARGED. WASHINGTON, Aug. 27.—The Turkish Legation has received a circular from the Ottoman Government, complaining of more atrocities. He says the Governor-General of Adrianople has transmitted to the following list of new acts of barbarity committed by the Russians and Bulgarians in the village of Adrianople: "On Monday, July 25, the Bulgarians of the district of Eski-Saghira, killed and mutilated a number of the village of Toklan. On the same day the Bulgarians wounded five Mussulmans of the village of Bahus-Mushin. At Ala-Bah four Mussulmans were put to death. Ahmed-el-Mustapha of the village of Eshkaki, a child two years old, called Zilka and Fatma, bonhom of Gufur, at Tournovo, were wounded with shots and bayonets. At Hay-Baba, a village in the District of Hassan, Monstapha Pasha, Hassan and Kadja Mehmed received wounds from which they died. Twelve emigrants from Arabi and Ambari, among whom were women and children, were massacred. Similar acts have been committed at Sellino, Jent Sahgira, Jamouli, and in other localities of the village of Adrianople. All the wounded, and the bodies of Hassan and Kadja-Mehmed were taken to Adrianople. The English Consul and Vice-Consul, as well as the correspondent of *The London Times*, have verified themselves the condition of these unfortunate."

"When the Russians entered Hazia Bey, a village of the district of Eski-Saghira, 400 Mussulmans who had sought refuge in different places, and among whom were women and children, were massacred regardless of age or sex. A Mussulman and three women, two of them wounded, and their children, were the only ones who escaped from the massacre. More than thirty Mussulmans who had sought refuge in the village of Toklan, were carried off by the Bulgarians, who forcibly took them to that place, after having compelled the women to wear Christian costume."

"Reuter's Pasha telegraph to the following facts, which occurred in the country where his army is operating: The Mussulman villages in the district of Eski-Saghira are the scenes of unheard of atrocities on the part of the enemy. In a village near Gulin, every male inhabitant was massacred, women were compelled to change their names and to take off their veils; several Mussulmans were killed in the field. The greater part of the Mussulmans, even of Gulin, were massacred, their wives and children, after being about in a granary, were burnt alive. At Karadja Viran, the Bulgarians, after having massacred the Mussulmans, massacred five of them and a woman whom they cut in pieces. They dragged the survivors into a church and forced them to renounce their religion. Attacked by the Bulgarians, the Bulgarians fled, after setting fire to the houses."

"The Cossacks and Bulgarians, after having disarmed the Mussulmans of their arms, a healthy quarter of an hour distant from Pira, put them under guard of a detachment of Bulgarians, who murdered six of them. The villages of Cadi, of Vider, and of Araseli, have been burnt by the enemy. The Bulgarians tied Hadji Mustapha Efendi, secretary of the authorities of Pira, to a tree and left him for three days exposed to the sun. After this they took him to Eski, where he is still kept a prisoner with his daughter-in-law, who was compelled to wear a Christian costume."

"The Bulgarians stripped the inhabitants of Matagalla, Kistendi, and Kistendi, and took away their property, even their last garments. Several villages have been burnt by them."

"Hadji Y. Tcherrira of Pira, one of the richest Tartars of the Pira, who was endeavoring with his relatives, children and servants, in all about sixty persons, on his arrival at Gulin, was attacked by Bulgarians, who took away his property, and then they killed him and his relatives in pieces. They left him and his wife and children to their last garments."

"Having enumerated other atrocities, Reuter Pasha says: 'In considering this long and painful list of atrocities committed by the Russians, I cannot keep from reflecting that from the moment the enemy entered our territory, they have passed without our being called upon to register some acts of destruction and cruelty. We do not know ourselves whether Europe will witness a possible spectacle of those perpetrated at Constantinople, the massacre of the Armenians, and the massacre of the Bulgarians, and if we are doomed to see the immediate increase of the martyrdom of the Ottoman population, the Turkish troops, and the official sources from which are obtained the monstrous accounts given to our mind every day do not allow us to doubt the perfect verity of all these reports. It is to be regretted as an excuse that these acts of barbarity are the work of irregulars or of persons without our being called upon to register some acts of destruction and cruelty. 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